



Atty. Dkt. No. 016891-0859

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Yasunori OOKUSHI  
Title: SELF-SERVICE SALES  
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND  
METHOD, AND ITS PROGRAM  
Appl. No.: 10/633,520  
Filing Date: 8/5/2003  
Examiner: Ouellette, Jonathan P.  
Art Unit: 3629

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first office action on the merits.

**CONCISE EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE**

The documents listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 were cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding Japanese application. A partial English translation of the Japanese Office Action of December 20, 2005, follows:

Claims: 1-15

References: 1-3

Remarks:

Reference 1 discloses an oil supplying system comprising a means for outputting the guidance information according to the client's skill level (oil supplying skill level). Reference 2 teaches an apparatus, wherein the client's skill level (operation guidance level information) stored in an IC card is read; and the guidance information in accordance with said skill level is outputted. It is not difficult for a person skilled in the art to apply said configuration of Reference 2 to the invention of Reference 1 so that the outputted guidance is determined in accordance with the client's skill level stored in an IC card. Furthermore, a person skilled in the art can appropriately adjust the configuration so that the above-mentioned client's skill level is determined based on a certain test results. (Creating and giving tests on a web site is known in the art as Reference 3 shows.)

Therefore, the configuration of the subject application is merely a random combination of the inventions disclosed or suggested by the above-mentioned references and known technology, and hence lacks unobviousness.

List of References

1. JP 11-011269
2. JP 2002-117197
3. JP 08-161586

Applicant's statements regarding the Japanese Office Action are based on a partial translation that Applicant's representative obtained. These statements should in no way be considered as an agreement by Applicant with, or an admission of, what is asserted in the Japanese Office Action.

English abstracts are provided. Applicant respectfully requests that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

**STATEMENT**

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to filing of this Statement.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date February 1, 2006

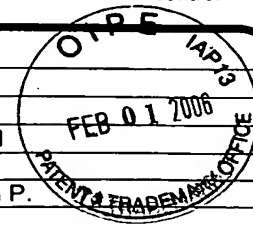
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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  Date Submitted: February 1, 2006 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/633,520
				Filing Date	8/5/2003
				First Named Inventor	Yasunori OOKUSHI
				Group Art Unit	3629
				Examiner Name	Ouellette, Jonathan P.
				Attorney Docket Number	016891-0859
Sheet	1	of	1		



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
	B1	JP	8-161586	A	OKI Electric Ind. Co. Ltd.	06/21/1996	A
	B2	JP	11-11269	A	Tokico Ltd.	01/19/1999	A
	B3	JP	2002-117197	A	Nishi Nihon Denshin Denwa KK	04/19/2002	A

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>6</sup>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

<sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.